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Rome, Dec. 30. *N. S.*

THE Pope does frequently aſſemble his Congregation of State, to conſult upon the Means of bringing about a Project which this Court ſeems very fond of, for procuring a Neutrality for *Italy*, and they are ſaid to have Encouragement from the *French*, who find that the War in this Country is not to be carried on by them without a vaſt Expence both of Men and Money; but for this very reaſon it cannot be expected that any Propoſals of this kind will find admittance at the Court of *Vienna*. The Congregation of the Inquiſition meets very often, to examine into the Accuſation of countenancing Idolatry, which the Jeſuits in *China* are charged with by the other Miſſionaries in that Country; yet this Matter ſeems to be as far from being determined as ever. The Difference between the Pope and the Duke of *Savoy*, touching the Right of Preſentation to divers Eccleſiaſtical Preferments in *Piedmont*, is at length adjuſted, by the good Offices of Cardinal *Barberini*, who has taken more than ordinary Pains in that Affair, wherein he has ſucceeded to the Satisfaction of both Parties. Signior *Bichi*, whom the Pope has appointed to go in the Quality of his Nuncio to *Switzerland*, is made Titular Archbiſhop of *Laodicea*. The Pope, upon the Death of Cardinal *Cantelmi*, Archbiſhop of *Naples*, appointed Signior *Panciatici*, his Nuncio there, to take care of the Adminiſtration of that Archbiſhoprick as his Vicar, during the vacancy of the Archiepiſcopal See; but the Chapter pretends to a Right of electing a Vicar upon ſuch Occaſions out of their own Body, and before they had received the Pope's Brief in favour of his Nuncio, they had already proceeded to an Election, which they now inſiſt upon. The Waters of the River *Tiber* are fallen, after having done a great deal of Damage in this City and the neighbouring Country by their overflowing, having been ſo high, that we were forced to make uſe of Boats in ſeveral of our Streets. Signior *Cecadoro*, one of the Pope's Secretaries, was murdered this week in the Palace, as he was paſſing from the Pope's Lodgings to his own, and a Writing was found pinned to his Clothes, intimating that this was done in Revenge, for his having made too free in his Diſcourſes with the Reputation of ſome Perſons.

Venice, Jan. 5. The *Germans* are making Lines and taking all the neceſſary Precautions for ſecuring their Quarters, particularly thoſe of *Oſtiglia* and *Finale di Modena*, the Garriſon of which laſt Place they have reinforced with two Regiments of Foot. The ſame Care is taken on the Borders of the Biſhoprick of *Trent*, where, ſince the late Attempt which the *French* made of going thither by the Lake *de Guarda*, the Militia is raiſed and poſted on all the Avenues, and Redoubts and other Works are erected there to keep off the Enemy; for the *Germans* are not without a Jealouſie, that the *French* have Thoughts of endeavouring to get a Paſſage that way into *Germany*, in order to reinforce the Elector of *Bavaria*: The *French* did not come off without Loſs from the Expedition abovementioned, having adventured ſo near to *Riva* and *Torbole*, that before they could get out of Cannon ſhot of thoſe Places, three Diſcharges had been made upon them, which killed many of their Men, and very much ſhattered ſeveral of their Boats. The *French* have now, it is believed, given over the bombarding of *Berſello*; They continued it for three days together, without doing any other Execution than the killing of one Man, burning of 5 or 6 Houſes, and doing ſome Damage to a Monaſtery in the Town.

Cologne, Jan. 19. The *French* at *Bon* are endeavouring to repair the Damage which the late Floods have done to their Fort over-againſt that Place. Several Parties of the Forces of the Allies are quartered along the *Rhine*, both above and below that Town, to prevent the ſending of any Proviſions or other Neceſſaries thither by Water, and more Forces will be poſted in convenient Places for ſtreightening that Gariſon. General *Sommerfeld* marched laſt week with a Body of 500 Men of the Confederate Forces, and ſome Cannon, to attack the Caſtle of *Saffenbourg* on the River *Aar*, belonging to the Count *De la Mark*, who is in the *French* Service, in which Place there is a Gariſon of 200 Men; but our Men finding this Enterpriſe to be more difficult than they had imagined, and not having made all the neceſſary Preparations for it, were forced to give it over. A Party of 150 Men of our Gariſon burnt lately a Magazine of Proviſions which the *French* had got together not far from this Place, in order to have ſent them into *Bon*.

Falmouth, Jan. 16. On the 14th Inſtant was ſent in hither by a *Dutch* Caper a retaken Merchant Ship, called the *Olive-Branch*, - - - - *Corbin* Maſter, who having but 12 Guns and 25 Men, did on the 12th Inſtant maintain a Fight of 5 hours off the *Manacles*, againſt a *French* Privateer of 16 Guns and 100 Men; but at length the Maſter of the *Engliſh* Ship, his Mate, and 7 more of his Men, being killed, the *French* took her, tho' with the Loſs of their Captain, and 9 or 10 Men more. The *Dutch* Caper came up with them the next day, and having retaken the *Engliſh* Ship, gave Chace to the Privateer, but was out ſailed by her. Yeſterday came in here 6 Ships, having Letters of Mart, bound up the *Streights*: Another came in this day, and the Wind coming about to the N. E. 5 of them are putting to Sea. The *Sidney* Galley, Captain *Upton* Commander, ſailed from hence the 12th Inſtant to cruize.

Plimouth, Jan 17. The *Alexander* Galley of *London*, *Joſhua Winter* Maſter, bound to the *Eaſt-Indies*, the *Dragon*, *John Bramble* Maſter, and the

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